



PICTURE OF A POPE . . . Press-Herald columnist Larry Macaray discusses this portrait of Pope Gregory XIII, famous for the Gregorian Calendar among other things, in his "Let's Go" column today. Macaray and his wife purchased the painting during their European visit this summer.

... Let's Go

By LARRY MACARAY

Almost everyone acquires "things" throughout his lifetime. These things can be junk or treasures. In the process of acquiring paintings for our art gallery in Anaheim — we managed to acquire an old Italian Master by the Carracci, the most noted painters of the Italian Baroque period.

The Carracci, as they were known, was a family of painters. Lodovico (1555-1619), Agostino (1557-1602), and Annibale Carracci (1560-1609) made up this group of artists that conducted a very successful and influential school in Bologna, Italy. Their styles were similar and because they did not sign their work, many paintings in museums refer to the artist as The Carracci.

This particular painting that we now own is 24 x 30 inches and is a portrait of Pope Gregory XIII. A very famous Pope who is remembered for many things—one in particular, that influences all of us, concerns the calendar. He is responsible for the last change that resulted in the calendar that we use today. The family in Switzerland that we acquired it from had owned it for over 250 years.

AN AUTHORITY in Bern, Switzerland, Dr. Muller, has attested in writing that it is genuine and authentic so that much has been established. But then the merry chase begins. Being an old master almost 400 years old—it certainly has left some sort of a history. It almost becomes a duty to trace this history as closely as possible and lurking behind is always the thought that this could be one of his better works and consequently could command a "fantastic" market price.

Methodical research has revealed that the "Portrait of a Widow" by Lodovico Carracci, now owned by the Dayton Art Institute, was sold at auction in Paris in

1848 as a portrait of Mary Stewart by Velasquez. There is no doubt that Diego Velasquez was directly influenced by the Carracci and only recently I have learned that Rembrandt also was influenced by them.

"The Crucifixion" by Annibale Carracci is in the Kress Collection and has been loaned or given to the Atlanta Art Association. In my reading and searching, I kept running across one name — a collector from London, Denis Mahon, who had paintings by all three of the Carracci. With this information, I planned to try and see him this last summer in London.

At the National Gallery we saw about eight paintings by the Carracci and ours is every bit as good as any that we saw there. The Louvre in Paris had about four paintings by the Carracci and they were superb. They were larger but the quality was no better than ours so that made us happy. Apparently the English did considerable traveling during the seventeenth century and managed to buy many Italian works of Art. Windsor Castle has the largest collection of Carracci drawings in the world.

In this mad pursuit of knowledge about this painting of Pope Gregory we just had to go to the Farnese Gallery in the Farnese Palace in Rome. The frescoes and drawings there are the subject of a new book by

Denis Mahon was listed in the phone book in London. My wife and I were there for about a week the latter part of August and we hoped that we might by chance get to see his collection. I phoned once and his butler told me that he was out to lunch and would be back later. I phoned another day and he was out for tea. My luck seemed to be running rather badly so we settled for the National Gallery in London instead.

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